

Results

Effort

Since the establishment of MRFSS in 1981, marine recreational fishing effort has increased over 300% at a rate of roughly 200,000 trips per year; however, it does not appear to show any clear trends with regard to hurricane activity (Figure 95). Estimates of total effort were within acceptable levels averaging 5.4% from 1981 to 2004. Fishing effort was also within acceptable PSE levels when separated by mode averaging 11.7% for beach/bank, 11.4% for

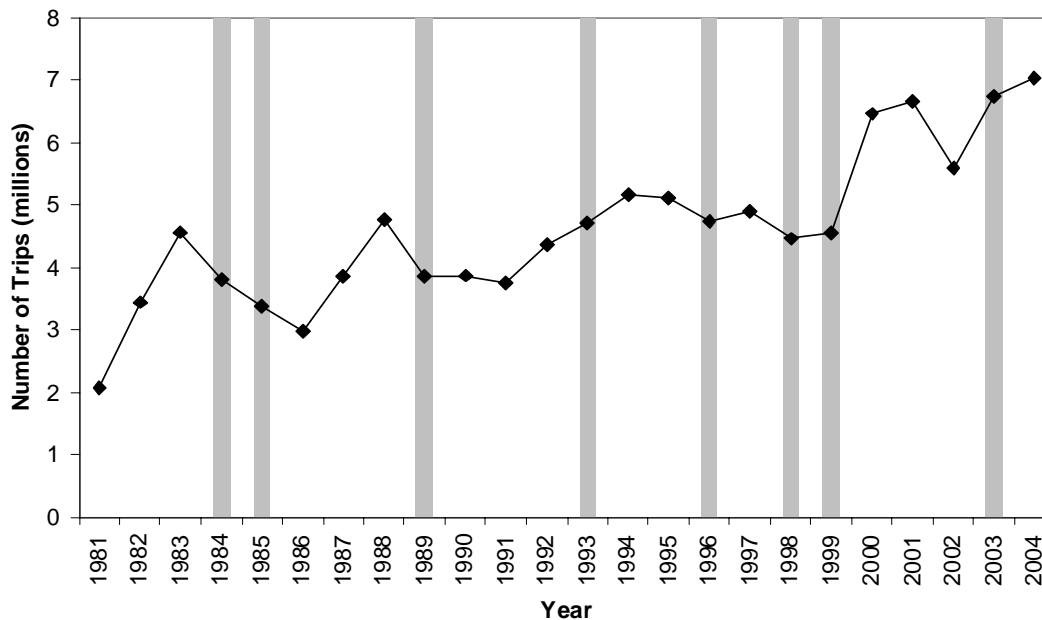


Figure 95. Coastal recreational fishing trips (millions) in North Carolina, 1981–2004. Grey bars represent notable hurricane years.